PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

# CHALLENGE




THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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# SMASH ICE & BORDERS




The nonprofit Heartland Alliance profits off of concentration camps for migrant children. Workers must abolish ICE and capitalism's borders.

**CHICAGO, NOVEMBER 20**—A multiracial group of protestors took the streets of downtown Chicago this evening to attack a racist, anti-immigrant worker non-profit organization. For the second year in a row, anti-racist fighters blocked the entrances of the luxurious Swissotel on Wacker Drive, where Heartland Alliance was hosting their annual fundraising gala.

Although liberal politicians like to paint themselves as the saviors of immigrants, and the working class in general, their history of fascist collaboration with agencies like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and mass deportations shows a deadlier reality.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and friends took part in this action, which enabled us to expose the liberal wing of the capitalist ruling class as the greater long-term threat to our class. Our goal is to win workers to break entirely with capitalist politricks in favor of joining a mass international PLP that smashes all borders with communist revolution!

## Hold the antiracist line

Before the gala even began, there was already a sizable group of anti-racist fighters lined up on the sidewalk in front of the hotel. There were signs and banners that called out Heartland Alliance's racist profiteering off of the detention of immigrant working-class youth. Some of the protestors were even dressed in elegant gowns and suits while wearing grotesque masks as a way to mock Heartland's donors.

As the gala's attendees started trying to pull in to the driveway in front of the hotel, they were met with a human chain of protestors blocking their entrance. Although the hotel security was able to sneak in a few vehicles, there were a number of vehicles that were turned away entirely as we refused to break the line.

Once we had reached a critical mass in our numbers, we cranked up the militancy and took over nearby Wacker Drive during rush hour traffic. Both lanes of the street were blocked, as protestors held a long banner that read "Heartland Loves ICE: Imprisoning Children for Profit." All the while, there were speakers on the bullhorn explaining Heartland's connections to capitalism's deportation machine and chants of "Heartland Alliance, jails kids for money!" and "Heartland donors, shame on you!"

Sure enough, it wasn't long after blocking one of the busiest streets in the city's wealthiest area that the bosses saw it necessary to call in their guard dogs of the Chicago Police Department (CPD).

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# OUR FIGHT

✰Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✰The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✰Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✰While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✰Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✰Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✰Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✰Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✰Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✰Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!


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## WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

# Bolivia exposes sham of capitalist reforms

The history of South America's Pink Tide exposes the sham of capitalist reform as a solution for the international working class. The track record of recently ousted Bolivian president Evo Morales is the latest proof. Workers in Bolivia have never run society; they control nothing. Before, during, and after Morales, the capitalist bosses have kept their iron grip on the Bolivian economy, courts, legislature, police, and army. Under the murderous profit system, the state serves the capitalist ruling class, first and last.

Only a communist revolution can create real power for workers to run all aspects of society, to create a world based on anti-racism and anti-sexism, and to fulfill the needs of the international working class.

Though workers in Bolivia have taken to the streets in militant mass protests, their militancy is being wasted on two anti-working class options. On one side is the Morales camp, backed by Russian and Chinese imperialists. On the other is new president Jeanine Anez, a far-right evangelical Christian whose interim government appointed the first Bolivian ambassador to the U.S. since 2008. Both sides are rotten and lethal.

We call on all workers to reject the dead end of indigenous nationalist identity politics, which kept Morales in power for 13 years. Identity politics fractures and disarms our class and prevents class-conscious solidarity. When we view ourselves as inherently different or opposed to other groups of workers, we are doing the bosses' work. A revolutionary communist movement unites workers against the root cause of racism: the bosses' drive for maximum profit.

## Pink Tide is not workers' power

Before Morales, Bolivia had an apartheid-like society that exploited, impoverished, and marginalized indigenous workers. As the country's first indigenous president, Morales used his Movement for Socialism (MAS) to exploit workers as a power base. He paid them with crumbs: low-level government jobs, an indigenous flag, and a reduction in "extreme" poverty. But as Morales fled to exile in Mexico, Bolivia still has one of the highest poverty rates in South America at 39 percent (Borgen Project).

While cutting deals with foreign bosses, Morales nationalized the petrochemical industries. He funneled money to favored local capitalists and distributed proceeds from exports to buy votes. He allowed the mining industry to encroach on indigenous lands. To consolidate his power base, Morales also spent billions on infrastructure, access to healthcare, and education reform.

But capitalist reforms are always temporary. Just as in Venezuela, the falling global price of oil cut into Bolivia's revenues. Squeezed for cash, Morales betrayed his promises to protect indigenous lands and the people who live on them. In 2017, he broke his word and approved the construction of a 190-mile highway through a national park in the Amazon:

The highway, Morales argued, was necessary to bring basic services to remote tribes. But native groups and environmentalists were enraged:

> *The road... would facilitate drug trafficking, illegal logging and other unwanted activity. Protesters marched for more than a month, during which police and demonstrators clashed in clouds of tear gas and flurries of rubber bullets (Reuters, 8/24/18).*

Neither identity politics nor fake-left democratic "socialism" will liberate our class. We must understand that the fight for a just world is intertwined with the larger struggle to destroy capitalism.

## Imperialism is the name of the game

For some years now, as U.S. imperialism declines and retreats, Chinese and Russian imperialists have moved into Bolivia to fill the vacuum. This competition is a lose-lose proposition for the working class in Bolivia. No matter which superpower takes charge, workers will be left at the mercy of the bosses' capitalist system.

The president before Morales, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, went too far in "restructuring" the Bolivian economy to suit the interests of the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund. He pushed for tax increases and other austerity measures that triggered mass unrest and ultimately forced his resignation. As a former coca grower, union leader, and leading member of Lozada's opposition, Morales exploited anti-U.S. mass anger to get elected.

Soon after Morales took power, Russian companies began investing heavily in Bolivia. Rosatom, the Russian state nuclear monopoly, got a contract to build a $300 million nuclear center near La Paz, the Bolivian capital, and began negotiating a concession to develop Bolivia's large lithium reserves. Gazprom PJSC, the Russian state-controlled natural gas company, has been in Bolivia since 2010 (Bloomberg Opinion, 11/11). The Chinese imperialists also came calling: "Between 2000 and 2014, bilateral trade between Bolivia and China increased nearly 3,000 percent, from $75.3 million to $2.25 billion..." (COHA, 8/31).

The finance capital, main wing of the U.S. ruling class (aka the Big Fascists) sees Morales' ouster as a chance to regain some of its lost imperialist influence in Latin America. It's seeking to support a pro-U.S. president who could stem the Russian and Chinese bosses' growing presence in the region. Anez is auditioning for the job.

At the same time, U.S. rulers are worried about the recent wave of mass protests across Latin America. The liberal main wing bosses stand for a more disciplined ruling class—a hallmark of fascism—and a more regulated, less openly greedy brand of capitalism. The flagrant inequality in countries like Bolivia is not sustainable. In Chile, meanwhile, the working class exploded over a four-cent transit fare hike. The main wing U.S. bosses understand that they and their South American allies can't continue to rule in the old way.

The capitalist profit system exists solely for the enrichment of a few off of the backs of the masses. Any gains made by working class reform struggles are always taken back. Workers cannot rely on identity politics or the bosses' elections to fix this inherently racist, sexist, unequal system. Left-sounding rhetoric by stooges like Morales can't change the basic conflict between bosses and workers. Only a society run by workers and for workers can bring our class the anti-racist, anti-sexist equality we deserve. Join Progressive Labor Party! ✪

# Rage against police, organize for revolution




Poverty is not a crime—capitalism is!

**HARLEM, NOVEMBER 22**—In a follow-up to the march on November 1 in Brooklyn (see 11/20 issue), over a thousand protesters marched in Harlem to call out the New York Police Department's racist policing tactics within the Metropolitan Transit Authority. The event was called without permit and the kkkops came out in force in an effort to intimate the antiracists. Nonetheless, protestors bravely took over the streets repeatedly with chants such as "How do you spell racist? NYPD!"

## Racism is part of the ride

The MTA is revving up its anti-working class and racist fare-evasion crackdown efforts. This essentially translates into more racist profiling and police terror in the transit system. The crimes of these cops include handcuffing a woman worker selling churros, punching teenagers, arresting candy sellers, and pulling guns on suspected fare-evaders. In addition to this, Governor Andrew Cuomo plans to ratchet up the presence of cops (by 500!) in the subway by next year.

Members and friends of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) joined the protest and distributed hundreds of CHALLENGE newspapers. Some young marchers, frustrated with the capitalist system and liberal politicians like Mayor De Blasio who help carry out racist attacks on Black and Latin workers, received the newspaper with enthusiasm. The working class in Harlem were also interested in our message, and many joined the march or chants as it passed by.

## Police come from slave patrols and the Klan

One political weakness of the mass march is evident in its main slogan, "f*ck the police." This line from N.W.A.'s 1988 song suggests individual terrorism and violence against individual police as the answer.

The problem at hand is a systematic one. In the United States, the institution of the police is rooted in the slave system. Much like how Cuomo's cops will patrol the subways, slaveowners hired men to patrol for runaway enslaved workers. The patrollers protected property and sought out unsanctioned gatherings and any signs of potential revolt. Later the patrols were replaced by the likes of the Ku Klux Klan.

While slavery was abolished, it has been replaced by wage slavery. While the legally sanctioned slave patrollers are gone, they have been replaced by the terror squad of the government, the NYPD. To get rid of the police system, we must attack it at its root—capitalism and its need to exploit workers as well as suppress any potential revolts. Only an organized communist organization has the means to get rid of capitalism, and that means revolution.

## Cops attack

The evening was also marked by attacks from police on the protest. Marchers successfully took the streets and even blocked a bridge to the Bronx. The police arrested dozens. At times, they rushed the crowd and tackled protesters to the pavement. The following day, many rallied at the city jail to support those arrested.

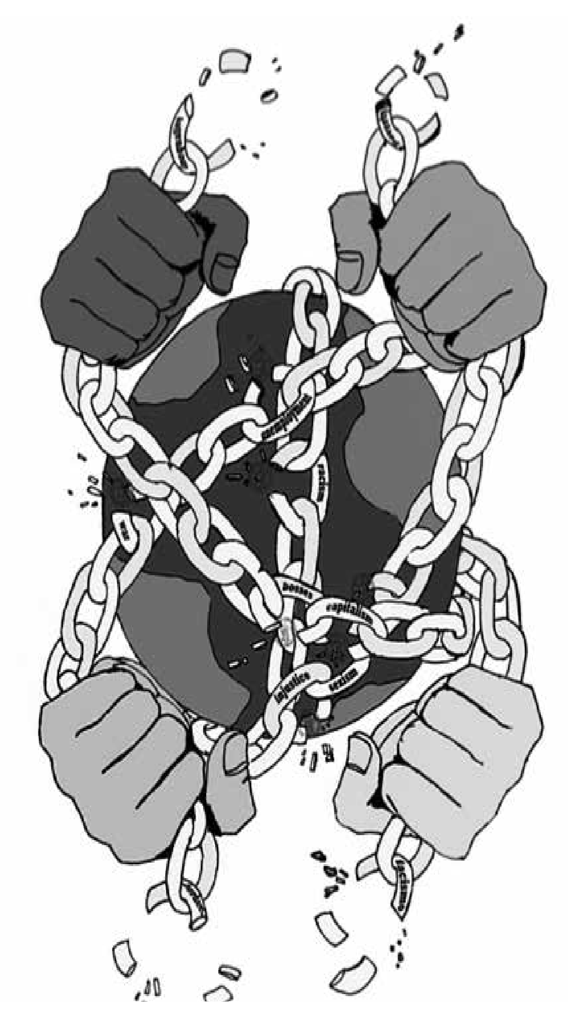
While the capitalists may use their control of state power to attack and brutalize our class, PLP knows we can ultimately win by mobilizing workers, students, and soldiers to tear this whole system down with communist revolution.✪

# Heartland, cold-blooded crimes against the working class

*Continued from page 1* The racists-in-blue immediately started threatening arrests while trying to box in the anti-racist fighters with their patrol bicycles. Despite their threats, we refused to back down easily, holding the street for close to twenty more minutes

before finally getting pushed onto the sidewalk.

This more militant action was a bold and necessary step. Many of the demonstrations organized in support of immigrant workers and refugees are limited by the liberal misleaders containing us, both physically and politically. To truly advance the mass movement, we need to be ready to break with the bosses' laws as well as their misleadership in favor of revolutionary militancy backed up by communist politics and organization.



## Heartland and liberals: guilty as hell

Heartland Alliance is definitely a worthy target of working-class rage. Since 2013, the organization has received more than $180 million from the federal government to house children around Chicago, making it one of the five largest detention operators in the United States. They mandate that any sponsor looking to gain custody of a detained youth give fingerprints and other information to databases that ICE then uses to track and terrorize immigrant workers (Chicago Reader, 11/27). They were forced to shut down four of their facilities in the surrounding suburbs after complaints surfaced about mistreatment and even sexual abuse of youth (ProPublica Illinois, 3/13).

However, Heartland Alliance is only another liberal symptom of the larger capitalist disease. The liberal, more-dominant wing of the U.S. capitalist ruling class likes to rail against injustice and violence against immigrant workers, but only for their own political and economic profit. They cry fake tears about immigrant children being separated from their parents, but conveniently forget that many of the prisons where the children are held were built under Deporter-in-Chief Barack Obama's watch. They all back the capitalist profit system at the end of the day, the same system that uses borders, racism and imperialism to divide, oppress and exploit all workers.

## Abolish borders with communist revolution

To guarantee liberation for the international working class, we need to reject all forms of fascism, whether it be the domestic Small Fascists represented by Donald Trump and his ilk, or the international Big Fascists, fronted by the various stooges in the Democratic Party. The abolition of borders does not and will never come from voting, but only by building a mass international communist movement.

PLP represents the seeds of that movement, which will bury capitalism, racism, deportations, and exploitation for good. Join us and fight for a borderless, worker-run world.✪

# PLP Celebrates Bolshevik Revolution




**NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 23**–Hope for a communist future was in the air as a multiracial, multigenerational group celebrated the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution with the Progressive Labor Party (PLP). This year we celebrated this annual event with songs, poetry, and dancing to honor the heroic events that led to workers taking state power in Russia. The Bolsheviks freed 1/6 of the world's surface from the disease known as capitalism.

The events of the night explained the achievements of the Bolsheviks, while also acknowledging the weaknesses and mistakes they made. Progressive Labor Party's history of learning from both the Bolsheviks' mistakes and our own was also a theme of the evening. Through decades of struggle against the bosses and inside our party we have advanced our own political understanding.

### Communist education

The program began with a PL'er speaking to an audience of over a hundred about joining workers in a call to action, asking everyone to join the fightback against the racist attacks on our brothers and sisters in Colombia (See article below for more details) and the role of the U.S. in this attack on our class. If we are to take ourselves seriously in taking state power, we must take action against all attacks by the bosses.

The program moved forward with a speech from a multiracial duo about the victories and achievements of the Bolshevik revolution. The Bolsheviks established the first worker-run state. They eliminated hunger and illiteracy. They fought racism and elevated women to many positions of leadership. They inspired workers around the world to fight against capitalism, and during World War II they almost single-handedly defeated the Nazis. The Bolsheviks also broke ties with capitalist elections, teaching the working class that the liberals were the same, if not worse, than the conservative parties, and that workers can only trust communists to fight for our interests. Today, as we learn from both their successes and failures, the Progressive Labor Party stands on the shoulders of these giants.

The speech then explained how PLP has advanced our political line. We have moved away from any cult of personality and we have abandoned all forms of nationalism. For over fifty years since our founding, PLP has concluded we must fight directly for communism and not fight for the stage of socialism first, because socialism inevitably leads back to capitalism. In our long history of being embedded in antiracist class struggle with workers, the Party has grown more international and more politically sharp. The speech ended with a call for the audience to join the fight.

### Communist art

The tables and walls were decorated with art posters from the Sovet Union. The artwork helped inspire and remind workers that we can take state power again if we fight for a communist world. We also sold shirts and stickers with "comunist revolution isn't on the ballot".

We also had a performance of the Langston Hughes poem "Good Morning Revolution" by a multiracial group of five young students, predominantly female-led. They are leading the fight against racism at their schools. Langston Hughes was a known communist who wrote many poems about how workers needed communism. In "Good Morning Revolution" he writes how the bosses tried to keep workers away from a communist revolution, and how the workers everywhere have a shared interest and responsiblity in smashing this system and should declare themselves communist organizers in every country.

The program ended with a song/rap about how workers are trained through the bosses' media that we should be pacifists. The song continued to explain that many workers tried to come in peace but the capitalist rulers have killed and arrested many of our leaders, leaving us with no other choice but to fight back. Then everyone sang the "Internationale" to emphasize that the workers of the world must unite and fight for communism.

### The fight continues

This event was a true collective experience. Many different workers took turns in serving food, while others took turns helping with childcare. It's only at events like these that various capitalist ideologies are left at the door, from sexism to individualism to racism. Through this event we start to envision a world without capitalism, without the profit system, without racism, where workers control all aspects of society; a true egalitarian world, made possible by a communist revolution.✪

# Students expose racist nature of budget cuts

**THE BRONX, DECEMBER 3**—Fifty students protested against racist budget cuts at Bronx Community College (BCC). These students, along with education workers, gave notice that we won't simply accept larger class size, reduced course offerings and fewer custodians, to name just a few of the cuts, that the BCC administration is planning.

Student after student gave testimonies of how the budget cuts directly affect them— delaying graduation, reducing their access to their professors, forcing them to use dirty bathrooms, and more.

A member of Progressive Labor Party brought a message of solidarity and communist analysis. The fight at BCC is part of the global fight against capitalism. Only by fighting for a communist system with workers in power can we ensure that all students get the education we deserve.

### Working class under attack

The student population at BCC is 98 percent Black and Latin, largely immigrant, and suffering from rampant food insecurity and racist unemployment. The BCC administration is putting the students under even greater pressure. The racist plans include:

Developing a "more resilient staffing model" in order to respond to future shifts in enrollment numbers. This means hiring more part-time faculty and staff that can be laid off whenever the administration needs to, as well as the following attacks:

- Increasing class size.
- Reduction of approximately 225 sections.




Fewer classes means it will be harder for students to enroll in classes that they need to graduate.

- Decrease in departmental budgets.
- Increase fees that students and faculty pay for services like technology and parking

When the working class is under attack, what do we do? We must stand up and fight back. In doing so, we expose the limits of what's possible under capitalism. By the looks of it, capitalism can't provide the most basic necessities for working-class students.

### Taxing the rich is no solution

As PLP members have been involved in this and future demonstrations, we have raised the idea that it's not enough to just tax billionaires. It's not enough to increase funding for BCC. Even in the best of times, education under capitalism is about reinforcing racism and individualism.

College under capitalism is about deceiving us into thinking we can escape the working class, that we can "get ahead" (by exploiting other workers) and that we can avoid the misery of this racist, sexist system.

The international working class will never be liberated through capitalist education. The bosses don't want to educate us all, and even if they did, it wouldn't end exploitation and racism.

### More fightback and Party-building ahead

We have another demonstration planned next week, where we will confront the administration directly over these budget cuts. The boldness of the united students and education workers will be on display, as we take small steps and train ourselves to challenge the rulers on campus. Bringing CHALLENGE to these protests is crucial to building the fightback spirit and class-consciousness of the students and workers.

As we organize more students to get involved and as the ideas of communism and PLP become ideas grasped by masses of students and faculty, these small steps will be transformed into leaps toward a communist future. Onward!✪

## Colombia

# Strike, liberal misleaders, & workers' rage



**COLOMBIA, December 4**—Latin America is on fire. There have been national strikes in Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia, and now Colombia. More than 10 million workers launched a national strike began on November 21 against the austerity attacks the Colombian government plans to launch at workers. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has joined these militant protests, peppering them with communist politics.

PLP was part of these marches, giving leadership to some with our chants of "To Struggle, to win, workers take power", "Capitalism is the abyss". We have been participating in local "cacerolazos" (protests where workers bang on pots and pans) and student and community assemblies. In addition, we support the marches, seizures and blockades, while trying to win the workers in struggle to strengthen our party as the leading force of the proletariat.

### Workers snatch DESAFIOs

PLP distributed leaflets and we didn't have enough DESAFIOs. Workers were snatching them from our hands. At times we felt like we were millions. We were inspired and we could see the potential for revolution.

A positive development in this moment is the mass participation and combativeness of young students and of rural and urban workers. They represent our hope and their struggles influence our revolutionary program.

### President Duque

President Ivan Duque intends to implement his regressive measures to benefit the big financial bosses at the head of the International Monetary Fund, OECD, politicians, exploitative employers such as Luis Carlos Sarmiento Angulo, Santodomingo group, Antioqueño commercial group and others.

The government want to do away with pensions for future generations. They want to change collective bargaining, especially on hourly pay, vacations, health, sick pay, holiday pay, etc– in other words, end all the benefits won by the working class through generations of bloodied struggles.

The strike was massive, with workers, students, unemployed and home workers participating. They struck from the Carribbean coast to the Pacific. Five of the major cities were on strike, including Medellin, Bogata, and Cali.

*Continued on page 6*

## 34th Celebration

# Antiracist feast for communism

**MARYLAND, NOVEMBER 23**—Sixty people gathered for the annual Thanks-for-Fighting-Racism Feast to enjoy a potluck dinner, communist company, and a discussion about this year's highlights of antiracist struggles in the DC and Baltimore area. With Progressive Labor Party, these struggles can turn into schools for communism.

### 34 years of fightback and festivity

This Thanks-for-Fighting-Racism Feast was launched 34 years ago by a friend of PLP and her husband. They were fed-up with the racist myths about "Thanksgiving," which is actually based upon the massacres and colonial conquest of the Wampanoag and Pequot tribes, committed 400 years ago by budding Puritan capitalists.

PL'ers organized for the Feast, bringing fellow participants from mass organizations, along with friends and family.

### Speeches, poems, raffles

A PLP program followed the potluck and camaraderie. So many people filled the house that presenters needed to use a bullhorn. We had speeches from fighters against police terror, against ICE-instigated deportations, and against racist union-busting transit bosses. Participants were inspired by four spoken-word performances, focused sharply on the struggle against racism.

One poet had attended the Feast 15 years ago as a teenager, and came back this year. She said, "This Feast fed us more than nutrition. That's what will keep the guests' minds open, and keep people coming back and inviting others. It's a very inclusive environment and I truly enjoyed myself."

In the spirit of international working-class solidarity, the Feast also raised funds for the Party internationally, including for Haiti, where workers are fighting mass unemployment and a capitalist system in crisis.




### Not enough to fight against Trump; fight for communism

The program closed with a call to join PLP, engage in militant anti-racist struggle, and, most importantly, advance the need for revolutionary communism to destroy capitalism.

It's not enough to simply fight to unseat a racist like Donald Trump from the presidency when Democratic Party presidents like Bill Clinton and Barack Obama deported millions, militarized the police, and closed off migration routes, ensuring that many working-class immigrants end up dying of exhaustion, hunger and heat, as they search for jobs and safety.

No matter what politician is in power, the working class will continue to be exploited, as capitalists attempt to maximize their profits, and as inter-imperialist rivalries lead to war, worldwide. This will persist until we abolish capitalism and create an egalitarian world.

After the program, conversations of revolutionary politics filled the house. Not all participants see themselves as communists, but they all engaged in a serious way with some aspect of communist politics. The working class needs communist ideas, especially when we are flooded with the false idea that the problems of capitalism can be solved through electoral politics.

PLP will continue struggling and studying. If we are consistent and sincere, then by next year, there could be more communists worldwide and here in Maryland and DC.✪

### The highlights of the Feast

The following four fights show that PLP is active in the class struggle, big and small, while trying to win people to a communist outlook and practice. The local antiracist reform struggles include:

A multiracial group of five presented about the powerful sit-in at Johns Hopkins University. These fighters took on the school's plan for a private armed police force, demanded an end to university contracts with ICE, and insisted on accountability for the police murder of Tyrone West. PLP pointed out there is no justice or accountability under capitalism.

The sister of Tyrone West, Tawanda Jones, joined in via videochat and spoke about the weekly West Wednesday rallies, which, in Baltimore, are spearheading the struggle to win accountability for all targets of racist police terrorism. This was followed by a speech from a new fighter, who is leading the battle against racist police murders here.

A high school student explained the monthly CHALLENGE discussions she has been participating in after the West Wednesday rallies, where she has been learning about dialectics and communism.

A transit worker reported on the determination of the strikers to win at the Cinder Bed Road bus garage, and the need for all workers to join in this critical fight for the future of the entire labor movement.

# Strike, liberal misleaders, & workers' rage

Continued from page 5

The strike was organized by the big union federations, environmental activists, representatives of peasant and indigenous groups, student organizations, neighborhood associations and opposition political parties.

The strikes were full of anger, anger because there have been 800 leaders murdered, people are hungry, they have no access to education, health or jobs. It is tiring. We can't take it any more; neither can we take the extreme exploitation and repression of the capitalist system that can't solve any of our problems.

### Liberals are our enemies

Liberal and nationalist opportunists crawled out of their holes asking for calm to save Colombia. They proposed to recycle some leaders and put an end to corruption. PLP was present in many demonstrations distributing CHALLENGE, talking and debating with workers and offering them a communist solution. We also tackled the pillars that maintain capitalism: racism, sexism, individualism, wage slavery and imperialist war.

The struggle continues, but the fake leftists are a danger. At some point we had to confront them because they were saying that the president shouldn't resign, that we needed a dialogue amongst all the organizations on the "reforms." What we, in the Party, are saying is that there are no lesser evil capitalists, that they can't solve the existing problems. Only through a communist revolution, only when the workers take power, will we be able work out all our problems. Talking about solving our problems by voting for another political party is not going to solve the capitalist crisis. We have to make a communist revolution.

### Infiltration during the marches

The paramilitary, who are still organized to repress the working class, along with the police organized in small armed groups, went to different headquaters of social organizations, and homes of some social leaders, whom they already had inteligence on. They destroyed everything and killed anyone who was there. There are hundreds of videos showing the police attacking demostrations, police paying homeless people to break windows, or paying Venezuelans up to 50,000 pesos to ransack store fronts. With that they added to the racism aganist Venezuelans, blaming them for our problems. The media did their job creating fear amongst the population, emphasizing all the "terrible things happening" and reminding us of the curfew.

### Govt seizes pots and pans

About the looters the police did nothing. But the protesters were violently repressed with killings, beatings and imprisonments. All of this for demanding rights that had been won previously. This shows that capitalist bosses fear when workers unite and fight to politically oppose their dictatorship. The bosses would rather kill us before giving us any rights.

A funny thing happened one night. Some people decided to go home and others decided to create the "cacerolazo" by banging pans to which the government responded by seizing the pans! Yes, it is funny, and it happened.

There were instances when masses of people would seize a cop's motocycle and destroy it, showing us that our strength, defense and future are with the masses.

There were times when the fake left asked the students to be peaceful, peaceful while the police were hitting them with their batons. We were organized to attack, and we were able to pull a student away from the police during a struggle. It sounds like a small feat but to us it was wonderful. We were able to do something!

### The struggle continues

As CHALLENGE goes to press, the strike rages on, and students of the main universities are calling for a continuation of the strike.

We communists do not believe that the murderous capitalist system can be reformed to serve the needs of our class. It's very important and inspiring to be active in these mass demonstrations. These struggles and discussions help us build class consciousness and the relationships necessary to understand that the international proletariat can truly destroy capitalism.

We in PLP see the opportunity; we have everything to win. We will continue on the streets, fighting arm in arm with students and workers. We will fight until the day of the workers' dictatorship, until we build a communist system, where all workers will have everything we need. Join us!

Long live the strike. Long live communism. Long live the struggle. Fight to win workers' power!✪

# NYC workers in solidarity with Colombia workers

During meetings of a workers' committee in a community organization, where some Progressive Labor Party (PLP) comrades do political work, reports are included in the agenda which analyze the world situation, especially everything related to the struggles of workers worldwide.

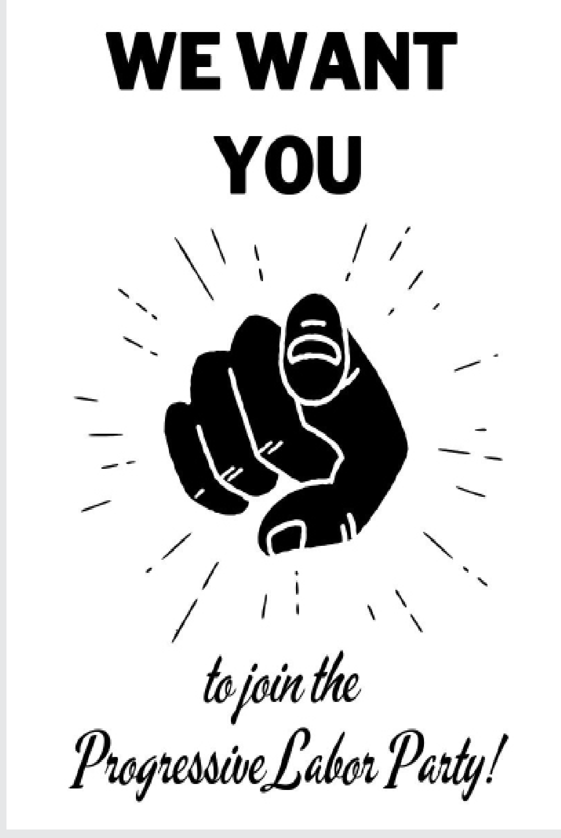
During past meetings, we have talked about Ecuador, Chile, and Bolivia. This time, we called to show solidarity with workers in Colombia, who organized themselves together with the peasants and young people in an unprecedented challenge in history. The workers are rebelling against the neoliberal policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that have forced "economic adjustments:" fascist measures that greatly affect the lives of working people already caught in poverty and misery.

For many years, the bosses have murdered hundreds of social and union leaders in Colombia. This time it was the turn of the workers, who lost their fear of all the oppression and fascism and threw themselves into the streets in massive protests in several cities and towns.

The protests became violent, due to the brutal response of the army, police and special riot forces trained by United States advisors. They shot at protesters, and used tear gas and water jets with chemicals, which caused many deaths and wounded, even though the government and the bosses' press say there were only three.

One of the workers murdered was a young student from the capital Bogotá, which provoked an even greater anger from the protesters. In their fury the workers destroyed numerous shops, large supermarkets, banks, and government offices. Many of the businesses were "looted" by workers who came down from impoverished and marginalized areas after so many years of abandonment under the bosses' profit system.

For this, they were called vandals, but the true vandals in the country have been the corrupt, liberal, and repressive capitalist governments.




### Workers take the streets over bosses' cuts

These massive protests were convened mainly by trade union leaders and other sectors of the working class, who are tired of their living situation. They are fighting impending fascist reforms that Ivan Duque, an ally of the U.S government, plans to present to the National Congress. These reforms, among other things, would reduce pensions to retired workers and reduce wages to young workers. But this fascist government did not expect that workers, peasants and young people were going to organize and take to the streets!

With the working class at the forefront, arm in arm with the peasants and youth, a massive wave of protests was generated throughout the country and continued for several days.

### Imperialist war, and international communist revolution through PLP

At the end of the discussion our PLP member summed up that these events were taking place within the framework of the power struggle between the imperialists of the United States, China and Russia for the control of other countries and their wealth, especially oil and minerals like lithium. Lithium can be considered the "white gold" of these times given its widespread use in profitable products like electric cars. The largest reserves of lithium are in Latin American countries, especially in Bolivia which has recently experienced a racist and fascist coup d'etat. Despite the bosses' violent repression there, many indigenous workers are maintaining a brave fight against the new fascist liberal government.

In the end, everyone present agreed that we must be supportive of the workers in Colombia and worldwide who are facing fascist neoliberalism that is advancing strongly across the planet.

As members of PLP we must raise the consciousness of the working class and prepare for the only way to overcome this capitalist hell: mass violent communist revolution. We have to take initiative during this wave of popular uprisings of workers and young people around the world, to direct the workers to the goals of seizure of state power from the capitalists and the construction of communism.

To work toward this goal, it is important for us in the Party to stress the importance of internationalism and working-class power, wherever we are. Confidence in the international working class, communist politics, and our Party is our only way forward.

# Workers in LA rebel against killer kkkops

Continued from page 7

and profits at the point of a gun. Only a communist revolution can rid the world of this racist terror and the rulers who are behind it.

### "Queremos justicia"

As usual, the local bosses' media report on the killing mouthed the lies told by the cops: a shirtless man, who had wielded a knife, confronted the police. However, cellphone video taken by a resident clearly shows Alex moving sideways and away from where the two kkkillers stood as they pointed their guns at him. Regardless of Alex's alleged offense, the police committed an act of murder. The capitalist media focused on calling this mini rebellion a mob. This goes to show which side of the fight the media is on.

### Alex, working-class brother

Alex is our working-class brother. His father, who has helped lead the fightback against the killing, had emigrated to the U.S. from the Mexican state of Guerrero in the 1970s. His father worked in the garment industry in Los Angeles for 30 years. His parents raised him and his siblings in this South LA neighborhood.

Alex was known as a caring, patient, family-oriented man who was great with kids. As with many disproportionately Black and Latin workers, he was also a victim of mass racist unemployment, a product of the capitalist system. Like his girlfriend told us, the bosses' system "didn't give him a chance." Capitalism sets up most of us to fail. Then, it blames us for the failure. (See box for more about Alex on page 8).

### Justice = fight for communism

The working class is leading this fight. Should it grow, it will be exposed to many parasitic elements—pacifiers, provocateurs, misleaders, politicians, and reformists. To counteract the fight from becoming cynical or coopted by liberal misleaders, workers must challenge the whole system through communist ideas. It is up to PLP to bring an international class-conscious outlook to these antiracist fighters. PLP will continue fighting alongside the antiracists and building a base for communism. The positive response of workers in this community to PLP's politics is a sign of a bright communist, antiracist future for our class. ✪




Protesters wrote "Justice for Alex" on the doors of the Newton Police Station.

## RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from the capitalist press that may be of use for our readers

NYT= New York Times

GW= Guardian Weekly

**2 million Black children exploited & enslaved for chocolate**

NYT, 11/28 — Nestlé, the world's largest food producer…[promotes] exploitation in its production of chocolate.

Approximately two-thirds of the world's cocoa supply comes from West Africa, where…over two million children are exploited as child laborers and slaves. The world's biggest chocolate companies have…[failed] to eliminate child labor from their cocoa supply chains.

**Jim Crow housing continues today**

NYT, 11/27 — …Racial discrimination…a thing of the past[?]

…A three-year investigation by…NEWSDAY….sent white investigators posing as buyers to meet with 93 real estate agents about 5,763 listings across Long Island. Then, they sent a second buyer — either black, Hispanic or Asian — to meet with the same agents….

Black testers were treated differently than white ones 49 percent of the time….

…Agents required black buyers to meet additional financial conditions that they didn't demand of white buyers….The agents gave white buyers an average of 50 percent more listings than black buyers. Some declined to do business in areas with large minority populations.

The discrimination…flagrantly violated the Fair Housing Act…banning discrimination in housing based on "race," religion, national origin, sex, handicap or family status….

…Black, Jewish and other Americans…had long been blocked — by the force of federal, state and local laws, as well as racist terrorism — from living in or buying homes in majority-white or non-Jewish neighborhoods. New York's suburbs were no exception. Levittown, the Long Island suburb…was all-white…[and] only made possible by federally-backed loans.

Those loans were administered by the Federal Housing Administration, which maintained color-coded maps of neighborhoods across the United States. Under…"redlining," the federal agency marked off areas where black people lived, then refused to insure mortgages in those areas….

…Black Americans weren't able to buy homes in new developments like Levittown, even under the mush-celebrated G.I. Bill that helped so many white Americans….Real estate agents will shake the hands of black buyers,…but those buyers are still being treated as second-class citizens because of the color of their skin.

…Discrimination in housing….is the chief reason behind the deep segregation in New York's public schools,…among the worst in the country….[and] helps explain the startling racist gap in wealth in the United States. The median wealth of white Americans is $134,000. The median wealth of black Americans is $11,030….More than 50 years after the Fair Housing Act's passage, black Americans and other minorities are still waiting for the protection of full citizenship under the law and in everyday life.

**F.B.I. — Federal Barbarians, Inc.**

NYT, Book Review, 12/1 — In "Disrupt, Discredit, and Divide,"…Mike German reminds us…[of] the abuses of the former director J. Edgar Hoover to post-911 profiling of Muslim-Americans,…the FBI has been an instrument of repression and racism…"to…suppress minority communities, intimidate dissidents and undermine…controls of its operations."

German, [was] an FBI agent for 16 years. His book is a capsule history of his former employer's scandals and abuses: During World War I…[it] assembled dossiers on thousands of…pacifists and socialists and countless lives and reputations were ruined by unsubstantiated accusations. By 1919, …Hoover…was busy "assembling a massive catalog of 'radicals'…journalists, labor unions,…civil rights lawyers…black activists…."

…After 9/11, the FBI pulled in thousands of Muslim and Arab Americans for "voluntary" interviews, detained scores as "material witnesses"… and built a terrorist "watchlist" naming hundreds of thousands of Americans….Its…obsessions fuel discrimination and violence against racial, ethnic, religious and political minorities, while allowing other threats — like those now posed by white nationalists — to go unchecked….Home-grown right-wing extremists are arguably a greater thre at.

**High costs = patients stop taking meds, early deaths**

NYT, 11/12 — Data [about diabetes patients] from the National Center for Health Statistics [showed]….13 percent….had not taken their medication as prescribed because of cost.

Some…patients were uninsured. More than a third of such patients had not taken their medication…because of cost; that was also the case for about 18 percent of those with Medicaid….14 percent of patients with private insurance went without their medication as well….

Such behavior isn't localized to diabetes. Multiple studies have shown….this is true when considering birth control,…treatment of high cholesterol, high blood pressure and other chronic care medications. It is even true in cancer….

…Patients with relatively high monthly payments ($53) were more likely to discontinue therapy within six months than those with lower copayments….

Stopping the therapy can lead to recurrence, even death….

# NIGHT 14

# WORKERS REBEL AGAINST RACISM




**LOS ANGELES, DECEMBER 4**—"How do you spell racist, LAPD!" Every night for 14 nights straight, antiracists marched to the Newtown Police Station to demand answers for the murder of 34-year-old Latin worker Alex Flores.

The family, friends, residents, and Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members have been protesting against the two thugs from the biggest gang in Los Angeles (the LAPD). The mainly Latin workers have rallied, marched, shut down streets, pounded on, and spray painted the doors of the local police station (see photo on page 7). The cowardly cops have locked the doors, infuriating the protestors, but the cops cannot escape the anger of the working class.

This fight is greater than just Alex. Justice for Alex means fighting for a world where innocent young men and women of the working class will no longer be gunned down by police. It means fighting for a communist world because no politician (no matter how liberal), court, or settlement can erase the racist system that gave birth to this heinous act.

### "Policia, cochina, racista y asesina"

PLP has distributed CHALLENGE and is working with the family and fighters to launch an organizing committee for Alex. PLP is also helping build multiracial unity by mobilizing friends from mass organizations including teachers, students, the church, and more. The most threatening thing to the bosses and their system, aside from communist revolution, is multiracial unity.

This fight provides the opportunity to expose the racist nature of the whole system. Under this racist, capitalist system that we live in, the police serve the bosses and protect their property

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### Testimony

I am Alex's older sister, Amanda Flores, Alex was having mental problems when I last saw him, which was on Nov.16. He was having symptoms of schizophrenia. He would close my mom's window curtains and say things like "Mom, move from the window because they will see you." He would hear things and at the same time hide because he…was scared. When I noticed that he was not himself, I mentioned it to my mom. We had agreed to get him some help.

My brother had and has a family that loves and supports him. He did not deserve to die at the hands of police brutality and racism. He was always a sweet, happy, and funny guy. Everyone around the neighborhood knew him; he was always polite and nice to people.

At this point my family and I are looking for answers and evidence. There was no reason for police officers to shoot my brother 5 or more times, and more so no reason to shoot him in the head. They could have used a different tactic to stop him…My family and friends decided to protest JUSTICE FOR ALEX FLORES because we want the police officers that killed my brother to pay for what they did and STOP POLICE BRUTALITY as well as RACISM.

It is very devastating when you are trying to get answers…and nobody, especially the police, can give you any information. We did not get any…information until 3 days after the incident, [which we probably received]…because of our protest that started Nov. 21. We have been protesting for JUSTICE at the South Central Newton Police Station from 8:00pm -10:00pm daily.

My family and I did not know where my brother's body was until November 22…Not to [mention] we have not seen his body untill this moment because that was denied by the Coroner's decision. We are desperately looking for help if anyone knows where or who we can contact to help us get justice for my brother…

There are so many incidents where Latino victims have died just like my brother in the hands of the suspect, which is the police, and with a high rate of homicide [among the] Latino working class. We are very heart broken and ask for justice for my brother Alex Flores. This time of the holiday season it is very hard to accept that my brother is gone. When everyone else is happy to be with their loved ones and are having a wonderful time, my family and I are having the hardest time of our lives.

*-From "The Homicide Report" in The LA Times*